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1964

# the organized farmer

Vol. 25 December 28, 1964, Edmonton, Alberta No. 33

## Consolidation of Consumer Co-ops In Europe

By Breen Melvin, Vice-President Co-op Union of Canada

Shortly before going overseas I chanced to read a most challenging article in the July issue of the **Review of International Co-operation**, entitled "Structural Reform in Danish Co-operation". Written by Aage Buchart of F.D.B., the Danish Co-operative Wholesale Society, it outlines a "radical scheme for a concentration of the Danish retail co-operative societies into one large chain organization".

Somewhat startled by this proposal to transform the little country's 1900 local societies into a monolithic structure, I made a mental note to ask questions of my Danish co-op friends when I met them in Copenhagen. This I did and received confirmation of the plan, now in process of accomplishment, to create one single nation-wide society under the name of "Co-op Denmark". There is widespread approval in principle for the idea amongst co-operators at all levels and a Structural Committee representative of rural and urban societies and F.D.B. itself is hard at work.

### Experiences Similar

On the Yugoslav Airline Caravelle jet, enroute back from Belgrade to Paris. I sat with Mr. G. H. Nijhof, president of Co-op Nederland. Once again I plied my friend with questions about recent developments in the Dutch consumer movement. I had been aware of attempts in the past few years to bring together the several federations of retail societies which had divided them, thereby weakened the movement for years. I was pleased to learn that these federations had been amalgamated into one wholesale society after a rather long but successful struggle led by those who saw the advantages to be gained.

But this was only part of the story. Mr. Nijhof stated that the 200-odd local societies previously scattered throughout the country have now been reduced in number to fifteen. The ultimate goal is a single organization similar to Co-op Denmark. The consumer movements in European countries are going through a similar experience

### PAUL BABEY'S IMPRESSIONS: PART 4

GENERAL SCIENCES

## A Parade Fills Our Eyes - Communes Surprise Us

The parade celebrating the 15th anniversary of the setting up of the People's Republic of China on October 1 in Peking was really something to see.

Canadians viewing it soon agreed that we did not know the meaning of the word "parade" until we saw these national day celebrations. When you see an eye filling spectacle that keeps coming on for

although none appear to have gone so far with such singleness of purpose.

### Only Outlet

Discussions with officials of N.K.L., the Norwegian Co-operative Wholesale and Union, revealed a desire for amalgamation in the interest of greater efficiency which, however, is thwarted by problems of geography. Small societies isolated from one another by mountains and fjords do not lend themselves to amalgamation. What is more, the fact that the

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two and a half hours; of people—not motorized vehicles, but people marching 200 abreast, waving colored wreaths they had made themselves, you will know how much the word "parade" can mean. A total of 700,000 people swept past us in an unlimited rainbow of color. Out over the Tien An Men Square, which covers more than 30 acres across the parade route from the reviewing stand, hundreds of thousands more people formed a colorful background for the parade. When the colors in the parade changed, so did the colors out in the square—to match!

### A Million Dancers

At night we were taken to view the fireworks in the square. Such displays I have seen in the past suffer by comparison. The Chinese had their fireworks spread over a mile area. They kept firing continuously in three half hour periods. The range of color again defies description.

During the firework display, about a million people were dancing in the square below. As tour leader, worrying about rambunctious Canadians who felt like dancing that night too, I was wondering for a while just how I was

going to round them all up again to get them safely back to our hotel.

Now then, what about Chinese  
(Continued on page 2)

### FUA HAS SURPLUS

The Farmers' Union of Alberta has completed another provincial convention. The financial statement presented to the delegates showed a surplus of \$12,000 compared to a deficit of \$2,000 the previous year. Total revenue was \$152,020 compared to \$137,719 in 1962-63. Membership revenue was up \$6,500 and administration costs down almost \$3,000. The Organized Farmer subscription revenue was up \$9,000 but advertising was down about \$2,000.

There is no question that the FUA has been well managed during the year and expenses held in line with income. We wonder, however, if the farmers of Alberta have gotten the most out of their organization with a total budget of \$152,000. It would seem that a lot of people have accomplished a great deal with this amount of money. The presidents or general managers of many corporations would be insulted if they were offered the whole amount as an annual salary.

It is a credit to Alberta farm leaders that they have done so much with so little and contributed their own time so freely to the advancement of agriculture, but we feel the rank and file of farm people have done poorly in helping to promote their own case. A little more money in the pot and few more hours from everyone would be an investment well worth while.

Reprinted from  
"Wheat Pool Budget"

### Western Oil and Natural Gas to Shine In Canadian Pavilion

H. Leslie Brown, Commissioner General of the Canadian participation in the 1967 World Exhibition, says that bubbling pools of western Canadian oil alongside flaming jets of natural gas from the Canadian Prairies will add touches of realism to the Canadian pavilion.

The Canadian participation will cost \$21,000,000 and its construction is scheduled to start next April.

## Crop Insurance - A New Program For Alberta Farmers

Commencing in the spring of 1965 farmers in two or three areas of the province will have the opportunity of availing themselves of All-Risk Crop Insurance. This is the first time crop insurance has been offered in Alberta though it has been available in parts of the United States for over 25 years and in certain other Canadian provinces for several years. The program, a joint venture of the governments of Alberta and Canada, is designed to eliminate a good deal of the risk from crop production.

Farm crops must fight many natural hazards—hazards which the farmer cannot control. Each year many acres are totally destroyed or badly damaged because of drought, excessive moisture, diseases, insects or some other reason. The loss of a crop or series of crops places the farmer in financial difficulties and may even force him off the farm.

The farmer has a major investment in growing crops. With modern day methods of farming the costs are high. Crop Insurance will provide assurance of securing sufficient income to meet most of these out-of-pocket costs of growing the crop.

Many farmers today must borrow in order to grow a crop. If the crop and the investment are lost, it often means the farmer has no way to repay the loan and this dries up his credit for future years. Using crop insurance as additional security for a loan will improve the farmer's credit by making it possible for him to repay the loan.

### Protects Working Capital

Of course, not all farmers must borrow to produce their crop. They use money from past profits or accumulated reserves. Thus, if the crop fails, he must dig deeper into his reserves. By protecting his investment with crop insurance, he protects his accumulated reserves or his working capital.

The benefits of crop insurance will be felt beyond the farmer. Since many communities are almost solely dependent upon farm income, anything that keeps the

### Farm Machinery Syndicate Loans

Agriculture Minister Harry Hays has announced proclamation of the new Farm Machinery Syndicates Credit Act.

Beginning with the New Year, loans under this legislation will be available through the Farm Credit Corporation to groups (syndicates) of three or more farmers who wish to purchase farm machinery on a co-operative basis.

Syndicates may borrow up to 80 per cent of the cost of the machinery with a maximum of \$15,000 per member or \$100,000 per syndicate, whichever is the lesser amount.

Mr. Hays said the FCC's local credit advisers across Canada will begin accepting applications in January. A pamphlet explaining the provisions of the Act may be obtained from the FCC's head office, 150 Kent Street, Ottawa, or from all branch and local offices of the Corporation.

farmer in a position to pay his bills and keep money circulating is good for the community and will have the support of all business.

Crop catastrophe often requires some form of government assistance to aid the affected farm areas. Crop Insurance will reduce the need for government relief measures and will make it possible for farmers as a group to build a  
(Continued on page 2)

### NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

The coming of the New Year is a time of assessment. First we should look back at the accomplishments of the year just past, and secondly to some crystal-ball gazing into the future to see what is in store for us.

For some farmers, 1964 has been a very good year in terms of production. To others, adverse conditions resulted in a less fortunate situation. However, we always encourage ourselves by looking forward to a better NEXT YEAR.

The results of 1964 in terms of improved organization have not been startling, but progress is steadily being made. Any worthwhile venture does not come about by sheer coincidence, it is only brought to the fore if people are interested and concerned. As a result we have been successful in securing further necessary and just legislation in the past year.

Gazing into the future we can see that many problems will have to be overcome. Change is continual, and often difficult to meet. The ability to produce in abundance, the effect of automation and cybernation will profoundly effect our livelihood.

Overcoming our problems, can only be achieved by people being aware of the need to work together. Surely, with a determined membership we can look forward to 1965 with a great deal of optimism. Many members of our organization have contributed beyond the normal call of duty. Undoubtedly, these people, together with others will continue to work diligently during the coming year. For YOUR untiring efforts on behalf of your organization and your fellow farmers, we express our sincere thanks, and may you find satisfaction in the contribution that you have made for the betterment of humanity. To all of you, I hope the New Year brings happiness and good health, and may your rewards exceed your expectations.

PAUL BABEY, President,  
FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA.



# Women's Place In the Farm Organization

By Mrs. H. M. Parlbly

This paper was presented to the F.W.U.A. Convention in December.

Before discussing in any great detail the part of women in our farm organization we ought for a moment to consider the overall picture in rural areas today. We hear so much about the changes taking place in rural areas today. At no time in the history of agriculture has the change been so rapid and tremendous as in the last 20 years.

Think back to the closing years of World War II. How different from today! Gasoline rationing, pre-war machinery, old cars kept running by the diligence of garage men, a very few cars travelling at moderate speeds on gravelled highways or earth roads, local rural schools centering small communities, which children travelled on foot or horseback, radios with batteries and no TV—a world so different from today in which distances are telescoping so rapidly that we are at home today, in London, Paris or Rome tomorrow. And in the comfort of our living rooms we find it just as easy to listen to Bonanza from Hollywood, Ed Sullivan from New York or Front Page Challenge from Toronto or even the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

This magical wand of change has transformed our work as farmers. Heavy machinery has made us mighty giants to mow down trees like grass, to upturn the sod and bring vast stretches of earth under the farmers' control. Small farms have been rolled together into larger operating units. Houses, shells of the homes of the past are left vacant to decay, and our children board yellow buses for bigger schools and our rural areas are fast becoming fringes around the larger towns.

## Nothing New About Change

But change is not new in the world of nature or in our human lives. It is a very necessary condition of growth and improvement. May I cite one illustration from the world of literature and history. Almost a 100 years ago, the poet philosopher, Alfred Tennyson describes dramatically the havoc wrought by dissolution of King Arthur's Round Table when that noble company of knights was being shattered by death, distrust and treachery. Remember in your school books "The Passing of Arthur" when Sir Bedivere repenting of his unfaithfulness carries the wounded Arthur down the crags to the lake shore and places him in the barge with the three queens. The tragedy of the destruction suddenly overwhelms this youngest knight, Bedivere, who cries out, in his loneliness:

"Oh, my Lord Arthur! what of me! whither shall I go? Where shall I hide my forehead and my eyes?"

## FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

9934 - 106 St., Edmonton, Alta.  
Phone 424-0375  
After 5:00 p.m. 489-6955

## the organized farmer

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Subscriptions — \$1.00 a year  
Authorized Second Class Mail,  
Post Office Department, Ottawa,  
and for payment of postage in cash  
FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA  
9934 - 106 St., F.U.A. Bldg.,  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

For now I see the true old times are dead

When every morning brought a noble chance

And every chance brought out a noble knight."

And Arthur's answer so full of wisdom

"The old order changeth yielding to new

And God fulfills himself in many ways

Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

And, please note the emphasis on the word "good," for what was good for the past may not be good for future.

## Look At The Past

A bird's eye view of the rise and growth of our farm organization will illustrate this same principle of change. "Deep Furrows" by Hopkins Moorhouse gives us a vivid and sympathetic story of the early beginnings of the U.G.G. in Saskatchewan which later overflowed into Alberta. Shortly afterward two groups formed in Alberta, the Society of Equity and the Alberta Farmers Association, later to merge into the U.F.A. in 1908.

Some of you will remember the Alberta Co-operative Elevator Company, too, and its first elevators which carried away grain and brought in binder twine, flour and apples. My father was in on the "ground floor" of this movement in the south, and I have vivid memories of the barrels of apples from Ontario, how their rims pressed sharply into my soft little middle as I high-dived into the fragrant interior to fish a Wine-sap, a Jonathan or a King. This elevator company was probably an early ancestor of the U.F.A. Co-op and the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Shortly, after the U.F.A. government was elected in 1921, these former members passed an Enabling Act to permit co-operatives to form and a large number of co-operatives and pools sprang into being within the next few years.

Then, a second farmers movement grew up, preceding and during World War II, the Alberta Farmers' Union, to which a good many of you doubtless belonged. This grew and flourished, and once again, there were two farmer groups in Alberta. The story prior to 1908 was re-enacted. Now, instead of the League of Equity and the Alberta Farmers Association, it was the United Farmers of Alberta and the Alberta Farmers Union that the leaders sought to merge. The motto, "In union is strength" won again, when these two became the parents of our present F.U.A.

## For A Better Future

Changes seldom come without pain, without conflict of ideas. Many of you will remember the discussions, the arguments, the conflict of opinions amounting almost to turmoil which took place in 1949 and the early 1950's when the A.F.U. and the U.F.A. merged. The changes wrought were difficult for many at first. They were even so bitter for a very few that some farmers left the organization never to return. But once again, two parents died in order that a new and more virile child might be born, our present F.U.A.

That changes come is not the most important. The promise for the future lies in our attitude towards these changes. We ought to welcome these opportunities for growth and betterment.

Now, let me go back to the story of the growth of our co-operatives. At first the same people were prominent in all farm movements, they were the originators of each one as an answer to the various needs which arose. Wheat pools, poultry pools, livestock co-operatives came into be-

ing. The leaders knew each other having worked shoulder to shoulder.

Down through the years, a tendency to specialize came as a very natural development. A leader would concentrate on his own special interest. Some wondered if we would grow apart.

## A.F.A. Has Filled A Need

The Alberta Federation of Agriculture was formed to co-ordinate the interests of all these groups—some fifty of them. This was the linking together of agricultural leaders, specializing each in his own economic field. The F.U.A. remained the training ground, in the movement as a whole, a body in which each primary producer could lift his voice.

The F.U.A. has always had representation in the A.F.A. conventions but at times, complaints arose that they were outnumbered by the co-ops and their voice smothered. The unfortunate outcome was that to the outsider, agriculture seemed to speak with two voices, the F.U.A. and the A.F.A.

In the hope of finding a pattern for greater harmony and unity, the A.F.A. appointed a committee to study today's conditions and propose a framework which would answer our present needs, and enable farmers to speak with one voice. The committee appointed was Arnold Platt, past president of the F.U.A. and presently with the U.F.A. Co-operative; Leonard Nesbitt, Alberta Wheat Pool; and Senator Donald Cameron, formerly director of the Department of Extension, University of Alberta, originator and director of the Banff School of Fine Arts, and, as a young man, a farm boy, president of the Junior U.F.A.

May I draw your attention to the pamphlet which contains the fruits of their studies. This I would ask you to read in full for yourselves as I must pass on to the part to be played by the women.

## Those Concerned Should Decide

Where, now, do the women come in? In the foreword to this pamphlet, page 4, the committee conclude with "It is with regret that lack of time did not allow us to examine and make recommendations upon the role that the F.W.-U.A. and the Junior Farmers' Union might play in farm organization in Alberta. We wish to emphasize that it is our view that both these groups can, and should make an important contribution to farm organization, but we repeat in the time at our disposal, we could not study these groups and as a result are unable to make useful proposals as to what role they might play."

Some have felt that the women and juniors were passed over in this report. I am willing to accept this statement at face value. Then, too, these three men, may have felt that the decision as to the farm women's future should be left to the women to decide themselves, and rightly so!

When the farm women first came together in 1914 on the invitation of Mr. Woodbridge, secretary of the U.F.A., they organized as an auxiliary to the men. The following year, led by their president, Mrs. Parlbly, they decided that they should have their own organization and they, then, became the United Farm Women of Alberta.

From then on, farm women have worked together to establish their position and to earn the respect of all their accomplishments, especially in the fields of education, health and social service. At the risk of being contradictory, I would prophecy that amid all the change, your interests will continue to be predominantly in these fields. After all you are the mothers of the human family and these matters lie closest to your hearts.

## Your Right and Responsibility

Not for a moment would I suggest that these be your only concern. Your mothers worked shoulder to shoulder with their pioneer husbands. Today, we, too, should

## PAUL BABEY'S IMPRESSIONS

(Continued from page 1)

agriculture? We were continually insistent that we wanted to see the different types of agriculture—the modern and the very primitive. I feel we were able to see a pretty good cross section. They met our requests, and we were rather surprised at some of the things we saw on the People's Communes.

For one thing we were surprised at how much of a democratic system is used on the communes in the election of officers. We were also surprised at how completely autonomous each commune appeared to be. This organization is responsible to the entire population contained within the area. Agriculture, industry, in what ever way the people were developing the natural resources of that particular area, it was being done as a part of the work of the commune.

## Machinery Shortage

Not only that, but the commune organization, which generally covered an area slightly larger than a township, was responsible for the welfare of its citizens, health, pensions, etc., as well as education of the children. The differences in the living standard between different communes was striking. This was due to the fact that some areas were more rich and productive than others. Each commune was working in the best interests of its own people, within the limits of how much it could produce, and what capital it could raise. For instance, on one commune, money was being spent to develop an irrigation system. They were in a position which did not make it possible to afford old-age pensions. This was still something for the future on this particular commune.

In visiting agriculture, we found that there was a shortage of agricultural machinery. It is true that we saw tractors, and modern tillage equipment being used in some of the communes, but at the same time the majority of the work is still done by manual labor. I think the people work unusually hard. I give credit to the women I saw taking their loads along with men and working very hard. Their story of food production is one of continuous increase. In most places we visited we saw very good crops of rice. The people use fertilizer,

work together as partners and equals. Women worked in the years past to earn the right to be regarded as equals. It would be today's great tragedy for us if we should lose by default. By this I mean that rights and privileges are always counter-balanced by responsibilities. The deciding of your future is your responsibility, and, to you alone goes the challenge to see that you are counted both as individuals and as an organization.

I will not presume to mark out any set course. I would ask you to go back into your locals, study your needs, study the proposed new set up and decide what your future should be. Draft resolutions and send them in for the guidance of your board of directors. This is your right and your responsibility.

Now, may I return to Tennyson and his concluding words after describing Arthur's departure and Bedivere's return up the crags, towards the east.

"And a new sun rose bringing a new year" — Our new year will soon be here! May its sun shine brightly upon you, lighting the path of your future.

\* \* \*

1. (a) What have been the most valuable contributions of the farm women in the past?

(b) Are these all good lines of endeavor to follow in the future?

2. Are there any particularly weak points in our organization which should be improved or eliminated?

3. Does the present trend detract from the influence of our locals?

4. Can you suggest any new goals which should be aimed for?

both chemical and organic. Night soil, or human waste used extensively in application to the land is the traditional fertilizer.

They have incentive measures, as well, for those engaged in agriculture. The commune balances its figures at the end of the year—pays all of the production costs involved—and then about 30% of the money that is left, is divided among the peasants. It is surprising to see that the peasants are getting to the point where they have personal banking accounts. Usually these are in credit unions, which are paying interest of about six per cent.

## Chinese Dairy

We were very interested in a dairy commune near Peking because this is the first time we had ever seen a circular milking parlor. It carried 24 cows, and as the thing went around in the circle, from the time a cow got on until she got off, she was relieved of her milk by a milking machine. They tell me that we do not have such a set up in Canada yet.

## Future Wheat Deals

We had the opportunity to have many frank discussions with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and I think most Canadian farmers will want to hear of it. What is the possibility of selling additional grain to China? In my talks with these people, I found that they are planning to import more and more cereal grain.

I think that the eating habits of the Chinese people are going to change. It is true that rice makes up their basic diet now, but as the country develops, as the people get better off, we can expect to see a change in the eating habits as well. I can still recall the President of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, President Nan, stating that they would buy wheat but that China would be forced to buy it from a country that gave her the best deal. I would take that then to mean that China would buy wheat from where she got the best prices, as far as the grain was concerned. But even more important to China would be that such a country buy Chinese goods, because trade is definitely a two-way proposition. If we expect the Chinese to buy a lot of our wheat it is only fair and right that we buy some Chinese manufactured goods.

People will wonder about what they have that we might buy. During our visit to the Canton Trade Fair we saw the display of over 30,000 commodities.

I noticed a shirt in Canton which was about 65% synthetic fibre and 35% cotton, this type of shirt which sells for normally \$6.00 in Canada, could be brought and laid into Vancouver at about \$1.60. We priced their wire nails, common wire nails—two-and-one-half inch. We learned that these could be laid in Vancouver at about six cents per lb. We priced other commodities and other goods and we found that the prices seem very reasonable. All a person would have to do is figure out the amount of tariff, and I am quite certain that these goods could be brought into Canada at a profit. When we ended our stay in Canton this pretty well completed the part of the tour that had been arranged for us.

(To Be Continued)

## CROP INSURANCE . . .

(Continued from page 1)

self-help program to meet such disasters.

It was these factors that has prompted farmers and their organizations to push for a program of crop insurance. Recognizing the need for more farm stability, the limitations of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act and the desirability of getting away from ad hoc farm relief measures, the federal government passed its Crop Insurance Act in 1959. In 1964, the Alberta government put through the Alberta Crop Insurance Act making possible the program now being launched in Alberta.



# F.U.A. Income Tax Service Useful If Members Use It Properly

By Bill Harper

Everybody grumbles about taxes, and at almost every election the candidates solemnly promise us that they will reduce our tax bill. Everyone knows that they will not, and cannot, do any such thing. Taxes, like prices and wages will continue to go up. Any politician who says he is going to reduce taxes is in my opinion talking through his hat, whether he knows it or not.

Faced with these facts, I want to say something about income tax, and about the Income Tax Department of the F.U.A. This department has been operating for about six years. It was set up because we used to get so many requests from our members, for help with income tax problems that the F.U.A. board felt such a department could provide a much needed service.

The income tax service is growing fast. Last year 489 tax accounts were handled for our members, and hundreds of interviews, letters of advice, and additional services were provided.

## People Are Funny About Taxes

What I want to stress is that the income tax department of the F.U.A. can be a real headache to the organization if the members do not fully co-operate. People are funny about income tax, and I suppose, about most other things also. Tax forms must be completed and in the mail by April 30th. Almost everyone waits until about April 29th, and then we get excited and want our return filed by the next day. I know, because that's what I do, and it's foolish! The job might as well be done on January 2nd.

## CO-OPS IN EUROPE . . .

(Continued from page 1)

co-op is the only retail outlet in many towns and villages places it in a relatively secure position.

As impressive as the growing trend to concentration was the similarity of the problems facing consumer co-ops in Europe and here at home. Rapidly expanding chains, narrowing margins, and rising living standards resulting in highly developed customer preferences, have shaken the leadership out of any complacency that may have beset them. Leaders of the Danish movement see the merchandising advantages to be gained from greater concentration as follows: (1) uniform shop front and shop style, (2) more effective national advertising, (3) common product line policy, (4) allocating working functions to specialists, (5) centralized accounting and data processing, (6) a common personnel policy and staff training.

## Move Which Way?

It is hard to resist the logic of this new trend. It is obvious that we cannot hope to use Toad Lane techniques on "Main Street". We must move with the times.

Yet, anyone who believes that co-operative enterprise is significantly different from all other forms of economic endeavour must surely experience a great concern. Are we not in danger of finding ourselves in possession of a sleek, highly-efficient machine but no clear sense of direction?

Surely the only way out of such a dilemma is thorough, fearless re-examination of roles within the democratic structure of our movement. We must seek new insights in the fields of policy and operations. While up-dating our merchandising methods, we must ensure that the essential genius that sets co-operative enterprise apart is not lost. If we fail in this we may not only lose our identity in this highly conformist society of ours, but even throw away our best chance for success.

This business of waiting until the last minute creates an impossible situation for our income tax office. We must try to do this job as much as possible with our regular staff, because you just can't go out on the street and pick up good income tax accountants on short notice, and if they are any good they are not interested in a job that lasts only for a month or so.

There are three ways in which F.U.A. members can get service from our income tax department: 1. By bringing in their accounts if they are coming to Edmonton. This is possible only for those who live in the north central part of the province. 2. By mailing all the information in to us. This works O.K. if the return is simple. 3. By arranging to get a group together locally, so that one of our staff can call, pick up the accounts, talk over any problems, and bring the information back to the office, where the return can be finished.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# LET'S IMPROVE OUR COMMUNICATIONS

The convention is over. Another year is coming to a close.

I feel that the convention was good as far as discussion, participation, and decisions were concerned. Occasionally, we do get bogged down in procedure, but this is part of the process of getting the job done.

The program committee instituted a few changes that are worth mentioning.

Rev. Hart Cantelon addressed the meeting before it tackled any real business. Rev. Cantelon spoke in broad terms, and he certainly has the ability of making people think not only in local terms, but in the more important field facing mankind as a whole.

## Documents Help

The documentations of resolutions appears to have the approval of the delegate body. This is the first convention that has ever dealt with all the resolutions that were presented; even though we work more efficiently, the information on resolutions can assist in having the idea at issue dealt with properly.

Not all of the credit for dealing with all resolutions can go to the documenting of them, but it helped. After all, when laying down policy, our decisions should be based on facts, and facts only. In this way, we can develop responsible policy on behalf of our members.

The Daily News publication was a new addition to the convention

## Review of EDUCATION

Anyone wishing to obtain copies of the Review of the Alberta Department of Education, which was presented to the FWUA Convention on behalf of Hon. R. H. McKinnon, Minister of Education, should contact the FWUA Secretary at FUA Central Office.

## Popular Method

This is proving to be a popular way to handle the problem. It can be arranged through your local. Bring it up at your next meeting, find out how many of your members will use such a service, arrange for a date and place to meet, then write in asking for someone to come to your local and get the whole job done in one day. Don't ask for such a service for two or three people, especially if you live some distance from Edmonton. You should have at least 10. And please do it right away—early in January.

The government income tax authorities have decided this year, to mail out income tax forms individually to every taxpayer late in January. Don't wait until you get this form before you hold your F.U.A. tax clinic. All this work can be done beforehand, so that the form once it arrives, can be filled out in a few minutes.

This F.U.A. income tax service is valuable to our members, and, of course it will get better as our staff gains experience and as the volume of business grows. This depends entirely upon the members. Again, let us urge you — don't wait until April. Give the staff a chance to serve you better by putting them to work early in January.

this year. While it dealt mostly with the lighter vein, it did provide an additional media of communication.

## But No Judy

However, all of the best plans in the world seldom turn out as anticipated. We were disappointed that Hon. Judy LaMarsh could not be with us to discuss health, pensions, etc. The committee did provide for a special joint session for this topic. Then too, we were sorry to hear of John Fisher's illness which prevented him from speaking to us. Mr. Fisher is Centennial Commission Chairman, an articulate speaker who undoubtedly would have inspired the group to take action in the centennial celebrations.

When certain planned events do not take place, it means shifting the program to meet the situation. One suggestion raised by an individual is that we cram too much work into the time available. Others feel that we should have longer sessions. The convention committee would appreciate suggestions on how we might improve our annual meetings in the future. Personally, I feel that the convention does a lot of work during the session. It provided for an exchange of ideas between delegates. The exchange of information will broaden us all, so that in future we can better solve the problems that face a complex and confused society.

## The Next Few Months

The winter months will usually provide for many meetings when organization at all levels meets to deal with problems. Many of the delegates will be reporting the annual convention, in an attempt to pass on information to our membership.

Using our communications to the fullest extent, we can develop an informed membership, one that can keep a vigilant watch as to the course the organization takes.

Recently, I had an interesting discussion with a very concerned

## Report on Canadian Federation of Agriculture to the F.U.A. Convention

By Ed Nelson,  
2nd vice-president of C.F.A.

As I am your representative on the A.F.A. board, you could say that I represent you, indirectly, on the Canadian Federation board. I felt, therefore that when I was chosen as 2nd Vice President of the C.F.A. at the annual meeting last January, it was an honour for the F.U.A. Whether or not it serves a useful purpose for the F.U.A. to have representation on the board is a matter of conjecture. I think it all depends whether the person you send has your confidence. One thing I can say without hesitation is that your representative can have influence on the final decisions of the Federation. If then, you send a person who thinks and acts as you think, he should serve you well. I only mention this to you because I believe it to be of utmost importance.

## Hard Working Body

I would also like to describe to you the manner in which the Federation can work for you. As most of you know the C.F.A. is a federation of Provincial organizations and some interprovincial organizations financed by a levy on each provincial group based on a formula that recognizes farm income according to provinces. This income finances offices (on the fifth floor of one of the oldest buildings in Ottawa and faces directly into the front of the Parliament buildings two blocks away)

member of our organization. His opinion was that the organization was one of the machines or tools that he needed in his farming operation, being no different than the insurance purchased to protect the investment in his farm. He pointed out that insuring a motor vehicle means paying a premium of about 3.3% on a total investment in the neighborhood of \$3,000. In a farm investment of \$30,000 (close to average) the annual FUA dues of \$6.00 represents .03% of the total. I pointed out that it has been a feeling of our members that increasing dues meant decreasing membership. He came back at me by asking if I was interested in having a large membership with limited finances, or a smaller membership with more to operate on?

## An Ideal

I proposed the ideal organization. First — representing the majority of the farmers. Second — a well financed organization where members could get essentially the service they require (staff should include an economist, a sociologist, lawyer, etc.). Thirdly — that an effective organization should provide for a maximum of participation of all the farm people.

To some, this may seem like a dream, and perhaps it is. However, if agriculture is going to face realities in the future, farm people out of necessity are going to be driven to work closer and closer together and be more dependent on each other. Because of the type of society we are living in, the decision making process will have to include a field of experts who have the ability to sort out the complexities, and assist us to evolve the proper solutions. It will all begin when farm people decide to go ahead. Will they?

I am reminded of a poem:

When times are good, and cash is free  
How independent folks can be.  
But when we come to fouler weather  
We find we have to stick together.

—Bob Mason

To all of you may the coming year bring you happiness, wealth and success in all your undertakings.

*Paul Babey*

three extremely capable young men full time, namely, Dave Kirk executive secretary, Lorne Hurd, assistant executive secretary, and Dr. Armand Lacasse economist and the necessary secretarial staff, board meetings committee meetings, committee meetings, committee meetings and travelling. Contributions are made to I.F.A.P. to Farm Forum etc. All of this must come from a budget somewhat smaller than that of the F.U.A. about \$100,00 per year. This necessarily restricts the activities of the organization and was the major reason why I did not attend two executive meetings. I felt that, since Alberta was well represented, the two hundred dollars required for each trip, could better be used elsewhere. I did attend the board meetings and one committee meeting. Most of the work of meeting with parliamentary committees presenting briefs, etc is carried out by the president and either or both Mr. Kirk and Mr. Hurd.

Just to give you some idea of the kind of work that is done I list the activities for the year and these are only those things that resulted in some formal presentation. The routine job of day to day work is in itself a major achievement. One of these activities during the past year has been the preparation and publishing of a monthly bulletin which is available to member organizations.

**January** — (1) Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, January 21-23. (2) Submission to Minister of Finance Re Custom Tariffs and Sales Tax on Goods Entering Into the Farmers' Cost of Production, January 31.

**February** — (3) Presentation to the Prime Minister and Members of the Federal Cabinet, February 26.

**April** — (4) Canadian Hog Improvement Conference, Montreal, April 28 and 29, 1964.

This as you know was a major C.F.A. undertaking, and took much of the time of the staff in March and April in preparing the advance documentation. The Conference was a first for the organization in that the extensive documentation was provided in both French and English, and those who participated benefitted from simultaneous translation. (5) C.F.A. Committee Meeting on Farm Broadcasting, Ottawa, April 30.

**May** — (6) Joint North American-European I.F.A.P. Members Meeting, Washington, D.C. U.S.A. May 5 and 6. (7) C.F.A. Meeting with American Farm Bureau Federation, Washington.

**June** — (8) C.F.A. Submission made to the Special Committee of the Senate of Canada on Aging, June 25.

**July** — (9) C.F.A. Submission to the Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons Credit, July 7. (10) C.F.A. Semi-Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, Winnipeg, July 28-30.

One of the major items on the agenda was consideration of the C.F.A. Study on "Farmers' Income Position and Farm Policy".

**August** — (11) C. F. A. Submission to the Broadcasting Commission, R. M. Fowler, Chairman. (12) Release of C.F.A. Statement in Support of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission on Health Services. (13) C.F.A. Statement to the Minister of Forestry Regarding Feed Freight Assistance and Feed Grain Policy, August 22. (14) C.F.A. Submission to the Minister of Forestry in Regard to Future ARDA Policy, August 28.

**November** — (15) Meeting of the Co-ordinating Sub-Committee of the Canadian Hog Improvement Conference, Ottawa, November 2. (16) Meeting of the CFA Policy Committee to consider Farm Credit Study Report and L'UCC Farm Policy Position, November 16 and 17. (17) C.F.A. Submission to the Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference and in-camera meeting with the Ministers of Agriculture, November 23. (18) CFA Participation in the 14th General Conference of IFAP, Rotorua, New Zealand, November 23 to December 3.



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# ATTENTION CURLERS

In the new year, a most important activity will begin. We refer, of course, to the eliminations and playoffs for the F.U.A. Annual Bonspiel. The final is to take place March 9, 10, and 11 in the Edmonton Sportex curling rink. Fourteen rinks will be competing, each one representing an F.U.A. District.

The provincial curling committee has recommended that as many F.U.A. members as possible be encouraged to enter these playdowns. Provision is being made in most areas of the province for local, sub-district, and district competitions. These events are being organized by interested F.U.A. people in the local areas.

Again this year, the F.U.A. Provincial Curling Committee will handle details of the provincial final. And once again, the Wheat Pool Trophy, won last year by the Art Cullen rink from District 10, will be awarded to the victors.

This will be only the second year that the F.U.A. Provincial Curling Championship has been held. The idea had been talked about for several years, and it finally became a reality last March when 12 rinks met at the Sportex.

The success of this venture has encouraged the provincial committee to go ahead with this year's edition. Everyone is looking forward to an even better final, stretched to three days from two, and with a full 14 rinks entered. Will you be there?

The question being asked everywhere this month is, "How do we enter the F.U.A. Provincial Final?"

Best way to answer that one is to suggest that you get in touch with the officials of your F.U.A. local. They can tell you who is in charge of the bonspiel in your area. In some cases, the playdowns may not be fully organized. This gives you a chance to get your ideas included when it is set up. In some areas, you might have to take the lead in getting the project going.

Generally speaking, each of the F.U.A. 14 districts in the province has set up a bonspiel committee to look after the District final. The district committee will be responsible for seeing that a rink is on hand at the Sportex next March 9 to represent that district.

Leading up to these district finals will usually be playdowns at the sub-district and local levels. Where these are held, special curling committees formed by the sub-districts or the locals, will be in charge.

The Provincial Curling Committee is responsible for getting the ice for the Provincial Final. This committee will also look after other arrangements, such as a banquet, trophies, etc.

Please address further questions to the F.U.A. Provincial Curling Committee at 9934-106 Street, Edmonton, Alta.

**DOUBLE KNOCK-OUT OPEN TO ONE ENTRY PER DISTRICT.** Each district is responsible for declaring an entry. Each sub-district should be ready to help the district pick an entry. Each local should **START NOW** to plan ahead for sub-district and district eliminations.

**Committees either will be or already are formed to look after details at the three levels of competition. The Sportex Ice is ordered. So let's go!**

**Local, sub-district, or district finals must be organized by the people at those levels. Your provincial curling committee is looking after the Final.**

**POSTERS** — A few more posters are available for any groups wishing to promote the F.U.A. Bonspiel. They take much the same form as this page, with the space in the centre given over to times, dates, places of local playdowns. There is also space for the names of curling committee members who are organizing the local events, and who can be contacted by people wanting more information. For posters, send your request to the F.U.A. Provincial Curling Committee in care of the F.U.A. Central Office. These posters can be placed in local curling rinks for the notification of the F.U.A. curling buffs.

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## ANNUAL PROVINCIAL BONSPIEL!

**All kinds of rinks are acceptable. These must be made up of F.U.A. members -- either F.U.A., Jr. F.U.A., or F.W.U.A.**

**They may be mixed entries, or all juniors, all men or all women. The idea is to get on the ice and play.**

**at the  
SPORTEX  
in  
EDMONTON**

**Let's Have A Full List Of Entries This Year!**